

# Kennedy men to testify on

## CIA 'plot'

By RICHARD BEESTON  
in Washington

POWERFUL figures of the Kennedy Administration and the former lieutenant of the murdered Mafia chieftain, Sam Giancana, have been summoned to testify this week before a Senate Committee investigating CIA assassination plots.

The first of the Kennedy men to testify will be a former National Security Adviser, Mr. McGeorge Bundy. He will be followed by President Kennedy's Defence Secretary, Mr. Robert McNamara, now President of the World Bank, his Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Maxwell Taylor.

The main focus of attention is on plots to murder Dr. Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, including a joint CIA-Mafia conspiracy which had its origins during the Eisenhower Administration.

Police are speculating that Giancana was murdered last week to keep him from talking to the committee, but his associate in the alleged "Mafia connection" conspiracy, John Roselli, has been subpoenaed to appear today.

### Recruited Castro man

According to latest leaks from the evidence before the committee, the two mobsters working for the CIA recruited a man in Havana in Castro's own entourage who was offered \$150,000 (£65,000) to kill his chief.

A Republican member of the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating the CIA Senator, Barry Goldwater, said yesterday that the agency "took orders from the top" in carrying out illegal activities. He said investigations would show that the CIA did not want to do some of the things it did but felt obliged to follow orders.

A former security director of the CIA, Col Sheffield Edwards, according to a report in *Time* magazine yesterday was authorized in 1960 to study the feasibility of eliminating Castro by coup or assassination.

The CIA-Mafia connection was reportedly established by Mr. Robert Maheu, a former FBI agent who later worked for Mr. Howard Hughes, the millionaire recluse.

### Poison pills

Through this link the Mafia, whose gambling interests in Cuba had been seized by Castro, recruited their would-be assassin.

The then CIA deputy director of plans, Mr. Richard B. Sell, is understood to have informed his CIA director, Mr. Allen Dulles, of the conspiracy while the CIA medical laboratory prepared poison pills and a box of poisoned Havana cigars.

The poison pills were reportedly turned over to the Mafia but the cigars intended for Castro never left the laboratory for fear that Castro might have handed them out to others.

The assassination attempt was apparently never made, but several months later was overtaken, after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion, by a much larger and more ambitious paramilitary conspiracy mounted by the Kennedy Administration for the overthrow of Castro. It was code-named "Operation Mongoose."

By agreeing to co-operate with the CIA, Giancana and Roselli apparently hoped to obtain agency protection from prosecution from the Justice Department for their criminal activities.

According to some reports, "Mongoose" came under the direction of a special inter-departmental committee which included Mr. McNamara, Mr. Rusk, CIA Director Mr. John McCone and President Kennedy's brother, Robert.

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